

## **Idaho Public Utilities Commission**

Case No. PAC-E-13-10, Order No. 32879

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### **Two Rocky Mountain irrigation programs suspended**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is granting an application by Rocky Mountain Power to suspend two efficiency programs for irrigators that have been determined to not be cost-effective.

The programs, which are suspended effective July 15, include one in which participants turn in worn nozzles, gaskets or drains for equivalent new equipment at no cost and another where irrigators are given financial incentives when they make pivot and linear equipment improvements.

Rocky Mountain hired a third party, Navigant Consulting, which, the commission determined, “presented clear and compelling evidence,” that the programs are not cost-effective. The programs are just part of a number of programs funded by a 2.1 percent “Customer Efficiency Services Rate Adjustment” on all Rocky Mountain Power customer bills. The Idaho commission requires that all programs funded by the 2.1 percent rider pass cost-effectiveness tests to ensure their cost does not exceed the savings realized for all the company’s customers, not just irrigators who participate in the programs. The total program budget for 2012 was about \$652,000.

During some years customer efficiency programs may be cost-effective but then other factors, such as decreased customer participation and market conditions, may render them not cost-effective, the commission said. “Therefore, the commission remains vigilant in its oversight and assessment of these programs and constantly seeks to ascertain whether program funds are being utilized in a cost-effective manner,” the commission said.

Rocky Mountain will instead continue its “custom analysis” on a site-by-site basis that would include pre-installation measurements to develop savings estimates and then a post-installation verification of savings.

A full text of the commission’s order, along with other documents related to this case, is available on the commission’s Web site at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click on “Electric” and then on “Open Cases” and scroll down to Case No. PAC-E-13-10.

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